

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

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P 161444Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2725

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR -- EX POST SUMMER CAPACITY CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) ROME 481; (B) STATE 6622; (C) STATE 2296

1. IN RESPONSE TO SOUNDINGS MADE BY EMBASSY AS SUGGESTED REFTEL (B), MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP LA MORTE INFORMED EMBOFF JANUARY 15 THAT ALITALIA STRONGLY DENIES THAT ANY POOLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR US-ITALY MARKET WERE EVER ENVISAGED.
2. LA MORTE ALSO SAID THAT, AS PRESAGED IN REFTEL (A), ALITALIA INSISTS ON HOLDING CAPACITY CONSULTATIONS. (EMBASSY'S REPEATED ARGUMENTS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL (C) HAVE NOT MOVED ALITALIA.) HE EXPLAINED THAT ALITALIA WANTS: THOROUGH JOINT REVIEW AT HIGH LEVEL OF 1973 SUMMER SEASON; OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT EVIDENCE THAT US CARRIERS HAVE VIOLATED OCTOBER 1973 CAPACITY AGREEMENT; AND RESOLUTION OF MOU LANGUAGE DISCREPANCY.
3. LA MARTE SAID, IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION THAT ALITALIA ALSO PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH SCHEDULED SUMMER SEASON CAPACITY TALKS WITH PAA AND TWA.
4. EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT ITEM RE VIOLATION BY US CARRIERS OF OCTOBER 1973 CAPACITY AGREEMENT MAY INVOLVE SEABOARD'S FREQUENT

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"EXTRA SECTIONS." EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED FURTHER INFO FROM MFA.

EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THAT ALITALIA WOULD NOT WANT TO MISS OPPORTUNITY TO TWIT US CARRIERS AND USG FOR FAULTY FORECAST OF 1973 SUMMER PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

5. BECAUSE CONSULTATIONS WOULD PERMIT EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE LANGUAGE DISCREPANCIES IN MOU, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE HOLD CONSULTATIONS IN ROME AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. THIS UNRESOLVED ISSUE IS BASIC FACTOR UNDERLYING MOST US-ITALIAN CIVIL AVIATION PROBLEMS AND HAS POTENTIAL FOR EVEN MORE SERIOUS DISPUTES UNLESS RESOLVED. EMBASSY BELIEVES MOST FAVORABLE RESULTS FOR USG COULD BE ACHIEVED IN MEADOWS-SANTINI NEGOTIATIONS DURING CONSULTATIONS.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DATES WHEN WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ROME CONSULTATIONS AND LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS. VOLPE

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